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Maesteg Urban District Council.

Medical Officer's Report

FOR THE YEAR 1895.

WYNDHAM RANDALL,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

NEATH:

PRINTED AT THE "MID-GLAMORGAN HERALD" OFFICE.

1896.

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Maesteg Urban District Council.

To the Chairman and Members of the District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1895, with the usual tables of vital statistics.

The district comprises an area of 6,709 acres. Density of population, 1·56 persons per acre.

Population :—The population of the district has been estimated at 10,500, and on this estimate the statistical returns have been constructed.

Workmen of the Caerau and Coegnant collieries floated away from the district during the cessation of work. Since work has been resumed the population probably amounts to 11,000.

Area in acres, 6,709.

1891.

1895.

Population, 9,417.

10,500 (estimated).

Birth-rate, 43·6; zymotic death-rate, 1·5; phthisis death-rate, 1·4; death-rate, 25·7; infant mortality-rate, 220·5; respiratory death-rate, 7·1.

Births:—The births registered during the year were 458; of these, 249 were males and 209 females. The birth-rate was 43·6 per 1,000 living, as compared with 30·3, the rate for England and Wales.

Deaths:—During the year 1895, 270 deaths were registered in the district. Of these, 149 were males and 121 females, the excess of births over deaths being 188. The death rate was equal to 25·7 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 17·4 in 1894.

The rate in England and Wales in 1895 was 18·7.

The deaths from the chief zymotic diseases during the same period were 16. Death-rate, 1·5 per 1,000 persons living, as compared with 0·5 in 1894.

The rate of England and Wales in 1895 was 2·14.

The number of deaths, from injuries, registered in the district during the year were 7.

The deaths at all ages were:—

Under one year of age	101
One year and under five years	49
Five years and under fifteen years	1
Fifteen years and under twenty-five years ..	17
Twenty-five years and under sixty-five years ..	61
Sixty-five years and upwards	41
	<hr/>
	270
	<hr/>

The deaths under one year of age were 101. The death-rate equals 220·5. The rate in England and Wales, per 1,000 registered births, was 161.

Table of Deaths during the Year 1895, in the Maesteg Urban District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAME OF LOCALITY.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							Under 5 5 upwds.	MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.													
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.		Scarlatina.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Diarrhoea.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Pyremia.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.
MAESTEG URBAN..	270	101	49	1	17	61	41	Under 5 5 upwds.	4	3	1	.....	4	2	.....	1	44	2	.....	1	88	150
								
									.....	.....	1	.....	1	1	14	31	19	1	.....	6	45	120

Area and Population of the District or Division to which this Return relates.

Area in Acres, 6,709.

Population (1891), 9,417.

Death Rates {

General, 25·7 per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1895.

Infant (under one year of age), 220·5 per 1,000 Births Registered.

Table of Population, Births, and of new Cases of Infectious Sickness,
Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the MAESTEG URBAN DISTRICT,
classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAME OF LOCALITY.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.									
	Census, 1891.	Estimated of to middle of 1895.		Scarlatina.		Membranous Croup.		Enteric or Typhoid Fever.		Continued Fever.		Erysipelas.	
				Under 5.	5 up- wards.	Under 5.	5 up- wards.	Under 5.	5 up- wards.	Under 5.	5 up- wards.	Under 5.	5 up- wards.
MAESTEG URBAN..	9,417	10,500	458	..	258	..	3	..	3	..	1	..	5

“ Notification of Infectious Diseases ” has been compulsory in the District since April, 1895.
There is no Isolation Hospital.

TABLE I.—Shows the chief causes of death amongst infants under one year of age.

TABLE I.

Causes of Deaths.	Deaths under one year of age.
Scarlet Fever	2
Measles	2
Tubercular Meningitis	5
General Tuberculosis	3
Congenital Defects	1
Diseases of the Nervous System	35
„ „ Vascular System	2
„ „ Respiratory System	23
„ „ Digestive System	12
Violence	1
Ill-defined causes	15
Total	101

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.—The 270 deaths from all causes included :—

4	attributed to	Scarlet Fever.
3	„	Membranous Croup.
2	„	Enteric Fever.
4	„	Measles.
3	„	Diarrhœa.

During the year about 290 cases of infectious diseases were reported under the provisions of the Infectious Disease Notification Act. These figures are approximate, as I did not receive the full returns.

TABLE II.

Shows the number of cases reported under the Notification Act, and the deaths during each month in the year 1895 :—

MONTHS.	Memb. Croup.		Scarlet Fever.		Enteric Fever.		Contd. Fever.		Erysi- pelas.	
	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases
January .. ..	..	..	2	6	..	..	..	..	..	..
February .. ..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..
March	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
April .. ..	..	1	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..
May .. ..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..
June .. ..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..
July .. ..	..	..	..	9	..	1	..	..	..	..
August .. ..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..
September ..	..	..	..	54	..	..	..	..	..	1
October	1	2	..	44	2	1	..	1	..	..
November.. ..	..	..	..	54	..	1	..	..	1	3
December.. ..	1	..	2	50	..	..	..	..	..	1
Year 1895.. ..	3	3	4	258	2	3	..	1	1	5

In addition to the above, 19 notifications of measles were received.

Scarlet Fever:—Four deaths were registered from scarlet fever; three being registered in 1894.

The number of cases notified were 258, as compared with 46 in the previous year; but that year the Notification Act had only been adopted in April. The distribution of the deaths and cases in the district, as to period of the year, will be seen in Table II.

From this it will be seen that the disease prevailed more or less throughout the year, attaining its maximum of prevalence during the last four months.

On an outbreak of scarlet fever being notified, the masters of schools in the locality were communicated with by the surveyors, and directed not to admit any members of the infected households for two months.

The parents were advised as to strict isolation for two months, and as to disinfection of persons and clothing; but no effective isolation can be maintained without proper nursing or removal to hospital, consequently such sanitary precautions were comparatively useless.

Until September, the notification did not exceed ten in any one month.

Finding the action taken had no influence in preventing the spread of the epidemic, the notifications mounting up to 54. I consulted the ex-Medical Officers of Health as to the advisability of closing the schools; neither of them were, at that time, in favour of doing so.

In October the notifications received were 44. During this month I was in communication with the School Board, as to the utility of closing the Spelter and Coegnant schools; and I advised their closure. My advice was not acted upon.

28th October, I reported to your Council "that, in face of the continued spread of the epidemic—in spite of the precautionary measures adopted—I feel it my duty to advise the closure of the schools in the district for a period of two months, and that the Council should issue an order to that effect."

In November the notifications were 54. The Schools were not closed, and I reported that I saw no indication to lead me to expect any immediate diminution of the disease, and I was still of opinion that the Council would act wisely in closing the schools. I added, "Localities that make no provision for the isolation of infectious cases, are likely, during periods of infectious sickness, to suffer from the inconvenience, disadvantage, and educational loss, attending the closure of their schools."

3rd December, the order was issued to close the schools; on the 9th December the order was not complied with; and I attended a meeting of your Council convened to discuss the matter. Compliance with the order was insisted upon, and schools were closed on or about 10th December. The notifications during the month were 50.

16th January I wrote:—"the diminution of notifications of scarlet fever has continued, and as no notification of scarlet fever has been received for a fortnight from the North Ward, I am of opinion that the Blaenllynfi and Spelter schools may be re-opened." The other schools in the district were re-opened the following week. I was led to the conclusion, that the increase of cases in September was beyond the seasonal wave, as the number notified in September, 1894, was only 23.

Membranous Croup:—Three deaths were attributed to croup; one in 1894. The number of cases notified was three, as compared with one in the previous year. Local sanitary defects were ascertained on inspection.

Enteric Fever:—Two deaths were registered.

Three cases were notified, as compared with ten in 1894.

One case was associated with hand-flushed closets and previous scarcity of water.

In another case a culvert flows beneath the privies, the back wall of the houses forming one side of the culvert. The stench from this ill-constructed drain, in dry weather, is most objectionable and dangerous to health.

The other case occurred in a damp house with a raised garden behind. Three cases of enteric fever broke out in this house two years ago.

The house was then condemned, but has not been put in a habitable state of repair since.

Continued Fever:—No deaths registered. One case notified, this was in a row of damp houses with untrapped gratings behind.

Erysipelas:—One death registered. Five cases notified as compared with three cases in 1894.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

Water Supply:—I must first congratulate your Council on having carried out a satisfactory and adequate water supply for the district.

This was a much needed improvement.

The construction of water mains to supply the whole of the district, conveyed by means of 3, 4, 5 and 6-inch cast-iron pipes, and derived from spring sources at Tonnau and Brynmawr. Five hundred houses, or one-fourth of the whole number, have been connected to the mains. This will prove a huge boon to the locality.

House Accommodation:—The house accommodation, although probably sufficient for the present demand, is not satisfactory. The houses, generally, throughout the district, are old, and many are damp, dilapidated, and out of repair. I have called the attention of your Council to many which were unfit for occupation, with a view to their closure or repair.

Among these were the so-called hospital, which was generally dilapidated and damp, with a totally defective privy.

53, 54, 55, 56, Bethania Street—old, low, small cottages, damp and dilapidated. These are still occupied although not put in repair.

28, 29, Bridgend road, damp and dilapidated. Still occupied.

Metcalfe Street—most of these houses had damp back-walls, due to defective roofs and absence of slates.

Behind the row, surface and slop-drainage was defective.

The north-side has been much improved, but the south-side is in much the same state as described.

81, High Street—unfit for occupation. Has been closed.

78, 79, High Street—improvement effected.

1, 3, 45, 47, John Street—dampness obviated by plastering the walls, and trapped-sink supplied

1, 20, 36, Brown Street—dampness obviated and trapped-sink supplied.

2, 3, 4, 5, Powell's Row—still occupied although reported unfit for occupation.

2, 3, Edward's Court—have been closed.

1, Edward's Court—still occupied although reported unfit.

“Golden Lion”—defective sink. Pig-sty within 100 feet of house, infringing your Council's bye-laws.

24, 25, 26, 27, Rock Street—generally dilapidated. Unfit. Still occupied.

McGregor Row—the condition of this row has been described in connection with a case of enteric fever.

38, Rock Street has also been described above in connection with a case of enteric fever.

Common Lodging-Houses:—There are three common lodging-houses. None of them are registered.

It is very necessary for the sake of inspection and sanitation, that this regulation should be complied with, in the case of the only one fitted for its purpose.

14, Commercial Street—a common lodging-house. This house is quite unfit for its purpose. Deficient light; deficient head-room; generally dilapidated; foul privy; accommodation insufficient for the numbers using it; unfit for occupation.

“Fardy’s” Lodging-house is also unfit for its purpose—it is low, dark, and dilapidated; insufficient privy accommodation, and this too far away. Refuse is thrown upon the roof of an outhouse adjacent, constituting a nuisance, added to by fowls being kept on it. There are four beds in the common room or kitchen.

Slaughter-Houses:—Most of the slaughter-houses in the district are unfit and inadequate for the purpose. They do not all comply with the Council’s bye-laws, nor with the requirements of the Public Health Act.

The one in Commercial Street is kept fairly clean; but the furniture required washing, and the walls white-liming at the time of my last visit. The back-yard is unpaved, and there is a dirty privy, which should have a pan and syphon, and flushing cistern supplied.

The one in Rock Street was in a filthy state. The walls were not white-limed. The surrounding ground littered with manure and offal. The lairs in an indescribably dirty condition. The slaughter-house and lair both drain into a stagnant morass of sewage. Totally unfit for its purpose.

The one in Picton Street is dirty with filthy lair, uncleaned cess-pool and pig-sty too near. This must be an objectionable nuisance to the frequenters of an adjacent chapel.

The slaughter-houses generally are so unsatisfactory, that a public abattoir would tend greatly to diminish continually recurring nuisance.

Manure heaps and Pig-sties.—These are often placed in areas near dwellings, and the Council’s bye-law, with regard to pig-styes and their cleansing, are not complied with

Sewage and Refuse disposal.—The present scheme of sewage disposal consists of a number of small separate systems—all eventually giving out their contents into the river. The water-closets and privies are all unsatisfactory.

Of the water-closets, few have flushing cisterns, none have fresh air inlets to their drains, and only one or two have drain ventilators.

Of the privies, some have leaky and overflowing cesspits; others have culverts beneath, which, although flushed during periods of rain, in dry seasons are mere receptacles for putrifying excrement.

Some are on the pail system, and some are earth closets; these are generally foul, through not being cleaned out at sufficiently frequent intervals.

The result, generally, of this faulty system, is the pollution of the air and of the ground surface of the whole district.

A well-constructed scheme of sewerage is the crying want of Maesteg.

In the meanwhile, the scavenging of the privies and of the areas behind the streets and houses should be undertaken by your Council.

The Notification Act has been of great utility in giving information of infectious diseases; but the intention of the Act cannot be fulfilled, nor the prevention of epidemic disease effected without the provision of an Isolation Hospital, a properly equipped ambulance and a steam disinfecting apparatus.

LIST OF PRIVATE IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN THE YEAR 1895.

(As supplied by the Surveyor.)

Pans, syphons, and trapped sinks have been fixed to the premises of Nos. 43, 44, 45 and 46, Rock Street, and connected to the 9-inch sewer.

Pans and syphons have been fixed to the premises of Nos. 172 and 173, Bridgend Road, and connected to the sewer.

Pans and syphons have been fixed to the privies of Nos. 177 and 178, Bridgend Road, and connected to the sewer.

Trapped sink provided to No. 5, Station Street, and connected to the sewer.

Pan and syphon have been fixed to the privy of No. 7, Station Street, and connected to the sewer.

The back yards of Nos. 1 to 25, inclusive, Metcalfe Street have been paved; shutes fixed along the eaves, and trapped sinks provided and connected to the culvert.

Trapped gratings have been fixed at the backs of John Street and Brown Street, and Nos. 47, John Street, and 1, and 36, Brown Street, have been repaired.

Nos. 78 and 79, High Street—the roofs have been repaired, and eaves guttering and down pipes fixed.

The road leading to Brynllynfi has been lowered.

The privies of Nos. 34 and 35, Tonna Road, have been repaired, and pans and syphons fixed thereto.

Nos. 1 and 2, Edwards' Court, have been closed as unfit for human habitation.

Pan, syphon, and trapped sink, have been fixed to the privies of No. 6, Station Street, and connected to the 9 inch sewer.

Pans and syphons have been fixed to the privies of Nos. 1 to 9, Treherne Row, and connected to the sewer.

Trapped sinks have been fixed at the backs of the houses along Charles' Row, and connected to the sewer.

IMPROVEMENTS.

A list of permanent improvements carried out :—

The making up and paving of West and Ivor Streets.

Constructing a 12in. sewer in Neath Road.

Widening road-way and building wall in Coegnant Road.

The laying of a 9in. sewer in Llwydarth Road.

The widening of road-way and building of retaining wall in front of Edwards' Court.

The widening of road-way from Cerdyn Bridge to G.W.R. Station Gates, building retaining walls, and erecting fencing preparatory to its being taken over as a County Road.

Constructing a 9in. sewer in Bridgend Road.

Providing a water supply for Caerau by laying 3in. pipes, and building a brick-work tank.

The re-construction of Pontrhydydyff Bridge.

The widening of Bridgend Road near Ewenny Bridge.

The laying of a 9in. sewer from the Cemetery Gate to Tai Cyndril.

The construction of a 9in. sewer behind Treharne Row.

The construction of a water-supply for the whole district, conveyed by means of 3, 4, 5, and 6in. cast-iron pipes, and derived from sources at Tonnau and Brynmawr.

Five hundred houses have been connected to the mains.

There have been condemned 20 houses as unfit for occupation, many of the owners have received notice to repair them.

Three have been closed and are unoccupied.

PRIVATE IMPROVEMENTS.

The back areas of the north side of Metcalfe Street have been paved and drained—25 houses.

Drains in Charles Street trapped.

A new 6in. drain, with trapped gullies, constructed in Talbot Terrace.

A 12in. sewer, with pans and syphons for 9 houses, provided in Treharne Row.

REQUIREMENTS.

1. A scheme of sewerage for the whole district.
2. The closure or repair of many houses unfit for occupation.
3. The provision of a public abattoir for the district.
4. The scavenging by the Council of back areas and privies.
5. The enforcement of the bye-laws as to the proper ventilation of house-drains, privies, and cesspools.
6. The enforcement of the bye-laws as to pig-styes, their cleansing and distance from dwellings.
7. The registration of common lodging-houses.
8. The provision of an isolation hospital, ambulance and disinfecting apparatus.
9. The paving, channelling, etc. of many roads and streets.
10. Greater promptitude in the removal of manure, house refuse, and other nuisances should be insisted upon.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

WYNDHAM RANDALL,

Medical Officer of Health.

BRIDGEND,
20th March, 1896.

TABLE C.

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE FOR ANNUAL REPORTS.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF MAESTEG.

Medical Officer of Health: WYNDHAM RANDALL.

Date of First Appointment: 21st May, 1895.

Date of Last Appointment: 21st May, 1895.

Present Salary: £40. *Term of Appointment:* Annual.

Rateable Value of District for General District Rate: £21,000.

Special Reports presented during 1895, subject: Scarlet Fever.

Water Supply.

Any extension or change in 1895?—New scheme carried out.

Portions of District inadequately supplied?—Portion of North Ward.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Extensions or Improvements during 1895?—Several lengths of permanent sewers.

Excrement Disposal.

Are the Privy Middens, &c., cleansed by Sanitary Staff, by Contractors, or by Tenants?—By Tenants.

Is the present arrangement satisfactory?—No.

Bye-Laws and Regulations.

Any change as to Bye-Laws, or as to Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order?—No change.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.

	No.	Are they inspected, and if so, by whom?	General Conditions.	Legal Proceedings (if any).
COMMON LODGING HOUSES	3	Police ..	Unsatisfactory—Unregistered.	
HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS	..	Not inspected	..	
CANAL BOATS .. .. .	..	..	..
SLAUGHTER HOUSES	7	Inspected ..	Unsatisfactory.	
BAKEHOUSES .. .. .	..	Regularly ..		
DAIRIES .. .. .	..	..	Milk divided directly and dispersed.	
COWSHEDS	32	Regularly ..	Condition varies.	
MILKSHOPS	19	..	..
OFFENSIVE TRADES .. .. .	..	..	..
(Please specify nature).				

Death Returns.

What corrections (if any) are made for non-residents dying within the District?—None.

Are any Returns obtained of deaths of residents occurring in public Institutions (Workhouses, Hospitals, &c.), outside the District?—No.

Deaths.

Please state number of each sex—Males, 149; Females, 121.

Births.

Please state number of each sex—Males, 249; Females, 209.

Hospital for Infectious Diseases—None.

Adoptive Acts.

- (1) Notification Act. Adopted when?—April, 1895.
- (2) Prevention Act. „ „ —Not adopted.
- (3) Public Health Acts Amendment Act. Adopted when?—Not adopted.

House Drainage.

1920 Closets. Approximate number of each kind in the District—W.C., 1,100; Water Privies, 500; Pail, Pan, or Tub Closets, 250; Privy Middens (covered), 70.

Loans (if any) sanctioned by L. G. Board during year?—Water Supply, £4,500.

State what action has been taken with regard to the following matters:—

- (1) Closure of Houses unfit for habitation—Three closed.
- (2) River Pollution—Increased.

SUGGESTED TABLE FOR INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

		DWELLING HOUSES AND SCHOOLS.				HOUSE DRAINAGE.										FOOD SUPPLY & WATER.					PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.																	
DISTRICT ..	Maesteg.	Foul Conditions.	Structural Defects.	Overcrowding.	Unfit for Habitation.	Lodging Houses.	Dairies and Milkshops.	Cowsheds.	Bakehouses.	Slaughter-houses.	Ashpits and Privies.	Canal Boats.	Deposits of Refuse and Manure.	Water Closets.	Defective Traps.	No disconnection.	Other Faults.	Water Supply.	Pigstyes.	Animals improperly kept.	Offensive Trades.	Smoke Nuisances.	Other Nuisances.	Totals.	Seizures of unwholesome food.	Samples of Food taken for analysis.	Samples of Food found adulterated.	Samples of Water taken for analysis.	Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use.	Lots of infected bedding stored or destroyed.	Houses disinfected after infectious disease.	Schools disinfected after infectious disease.	Prosecutions for not notifying existence of infectious disease.	Convictions for not notifying existence of infectious disease.	Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things.	Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things.		
60 ..	Inspections made	5	4		3	2				5	20			15	5								1															
25 ..	Informal Notices served by Inspector..		4		3					5	5			5	3													3										
2 ..	Legal Notices served by Authority ..				2																																	
25 ..	Nuisances abated		4		3					5	5			5	3																							

W. WILLIAMS,

County Medical Officer.



